

ARMY BALLOON EXPLODES

FOUR KILLED ON THE FRENCH AIRSHIP LA REPUBLIQUE.

Broken Propeller Blade Ripped Gas Envelope—Report Like a Cannon Heard Below—Wreck Falls at Fearsome Speed and Members of the Crew Are Crushed

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
PARIS, Sept. 25.—La République, the French dirigible military balloon, exploded in their five miles beyond Moulins this morning. The dirigible is now a complete wreck. The four men on board were killed.

La République had been engaged in military manoeuvres and was going at a high rate of speed when the accident occurred. She had started from La Palisse exactly at 7 o'clock. It was just 8:35 when the catastrophe took place.

Shortly before the balloon reached Moulins the propellers were seen to stop for a few minutes, then they started again. A few miles beyond Moulins as the balloon was passing over the estate of the Count de Chabannes la Palice, one of the blades of a propeller became loose and flew upward, tearing the envelope of the balloon.

The airship at once began to collapse. An enormous rent appeared on the left side and from a height of 180 yards the balloon and car, the latter wrapped in the almost emptied envelope, dashed to the ground.

The crew, consisting of Capt. Marchal, Lieut. Chauré and Mechanics Vincent and Reaux, were instantly killed. Their bodies were taken to a small summer house belonging to the Count.

The weather was perfect. There was scarcely any wind. What there was had favored the balloon. Capt. Marchal had been to the aerostatic park early in the morning to examine the possibility of starting, as he had been waiting since Wednesday for a favorable opportunity. The motor was tested and the tight propeller did not turn to Capt. Marchal's satisfaction.

Repairs were effected and a start was made. The speed averaged 25 miles an hour. Two automobiles conveying officers and men of the army balloon service followed the balloon. One of the cars stopped at Moulins to telegraph to the Ministry of War that all was going well. A few minutes later the accident occurred.

It was a blade of the right propeller that tore the envelope. The explosion which followed sounded like a cannon shot.

An eyewitness says: "We rushed to the spot with a number of men working in the fields. Before us were four corpses under a mass of broken material, motors, cordage wires and envelope in inextinguishable chaos. A large pool of blood spread round the whole mass."

A strong odor of gas prevented a near approach for several minutes. Capt. Marchal seemed to have suffered less than the others. He bore no apparent wound. The face of Lieut. Chauré was fixed with the look of a man who had made a terrible effort. The others were horribly crushed.

The news of the accident reached the Grand Palais, Champs Elysées, as President Fallières was opening the aerostatic salon. At first it was treated as a baseless rumor, but confirmation arrived just as M. Fallières was inspecting the remains of the only remaining balloon used during the siege of 1870, which had Gambetta and Jules Ferry as passengers.

The official inauguration was continued in order not to mar the opening day of the exhibition, which is intended to illustrate the great progress made in aerial science, but the strains of the "Marseillaise," which was played as the President left the building, grated on the feelings of those present who knew of science's latest victims.

The reported cause of the accident seems to be confirmed by the finding of a blade of the propeller in a tree a hundred yards from where the balloon fell. It is still covered with rubbered silk, which formed the balloon's envelope. It has been placed under seal, awaiting an examination by experts. Some of the few who have seen it state that it bears the sign of a flaw in the metal and also marks of a fracture of old date.

Lebaudy, dirigible constructor to the Government, says it is impossible to place the propellers elsewhere than in the centre of the balloon. When they were tried in the front or rear they could not be supported, and an oscillatory movement was provoked. He adds that it was the victims' eighty-first ascent with the République during the last seven months. His balloons have made 200 ascents without a serious accident hitherto.

The two dead officers were not married, but the mechanics leave wives and families. Minister Brand will award the officer's rosette of the Legion of Honor to Capt. Marchal and the chevalier's cross to the other victims.

The fatalities to Lefebvre and Ferber and this later casualty have brought up the question of the comparative number of deaths occasioned by dirigible balloons and aeroplanes. The history of dirigible balloons begins with the rounding of the Eiffel Tower by Santos-Dumont in July, 1901. His balloon burst a month later, letting him fall on the roof of a house at Passy. He had three other bad smashes, including a fall into the sea at Monaco, but he was never injured. Severo while testing a dirigible of his own invention in May, 1902, had the machine catch fire. The airship burst and fell into a Paris street, killing Severo and his mechanic. A similar fate overtook the inventor Bredesky and his mechanic in October, 1902.

La République made her first flight in June, 1908. By September 5 she had accomplished eight trips, including one of 125 miles in 6½ hours. The airship was often seen manoeuvring over Paris this year. Its accident going to the manoeuvres and the speedy repairs made will be recalled.

She is the second French military dirigible to meet with misfortune. A couple of years ago, her predecessor, La Patrie, was blown away in a gale and carried out over the sea, unmanned. Part of her framework fell in the north of Ireland.

BERLIN AEROPLANE MEET.
Fine Course at Johannistal Has Special Features—13 Entrants.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
BERLIN, Sept. 25.—Everybody is anxiously awaiting the beginning to-morrow of the aviation week at Johannistal, a few miles from Berlin.

The arena is four miles long and two wide. The course is specially marked with high pyramids of wood connected electrically with the judges' box. A system of flag signals has been arranged. Thirteen aeroplanes are already on the ground. It is doubtful if Orville Wright or Latham will take part in the contests. It is reported that if the latter flies the owner of a large store who brought him to Berlin will have his monoplane seized by bailiffs.

Count Zeppelin telegraphed to-day offering a prize of \$1,000 for weight carrying.

NO CONCESSION TO VENEZUELA.

France Not in a Yielding Mood—Castro Still Has Hopes.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
PARIS, Sept. 25.—Señor Piétri, the new Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs, has nominated Carlos Grisante, ex-President of the Supreme Court at Caracas, as confidential agent at The Hague and Paris. Señor Grisante will find the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs unwilling to make any changes in the protocol drawn up with Jesus Paul, the former Venezuelan agent, which, like that drawn up with Holland, was not signed owing to Paul's dismissal.

Ex-President Castro has returned to Santander from the cure at Solares. He follows the internal affairs of Venezuela with the keenest interest. He will go south for the winter, spending the time at Malaga, Palma de Majorca or Alicante, as he fears a renewal of his rheumatism. He fully counts on changes in Venezuela adverse to President Gomez which will allow him to return and take a prominent part in Venezuela's destinies.

CLEARED OF DUMA MURDER.

But Finnish Court Insists on Dubrovnik Appearing in Hertzzenstein Case.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 25.—The further hearing in the case of Dr. Dubrovnik and others, charged with complicity in the murder of Deputy Hertzzenstein in Finland three years ago, was adjourned to-day until October 22.

With regard to Dr. Dubrovnik, who has refused to attend the trial on the ground that he is not amenable to the Finnish courts, the court failed to find sufficient evidence of his complicity in the murder, and accordingly decided not to insist upon his arrest.

The Governor of Viborg will be requested, however, to procure Dr. Dubrovnik's presence at the next hearing of the case.

TO BE TRIED IN TENNESSEE.

Foy M. Dulaney Leaves Kingston, Jamaica, in Charge of Detective.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept. 25.—Foy M. Dulaney sailed for the United States to-day in charge of a detective. He was formerly the clerk of the Circuit Court in Johnson City, Tenn., and was arrested here on the charge of defalcation on July 26.

He waived his privileges under extradition proceedings and expressed his anxiety to return quickly to the United States, but owing to some bungling in connection with the papers asking that he be extradited his departure was delayed until to-day.

GERMAN MONOPLANE SMASH.

Grade Falls With His Machine but Isn't as Much Hurt—Latham Flies.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
BERLIN, Sept. 25.—Engineer Grade, the inventor of the first German monoplane, attempted to make his initial public flight to-day to Bork, thirty miles from Berlin. After he had flown a short distance, rising a few meters, his propeller broke and the monoplane came down. It was badly damaged, but Grade was not hurt.

Latham flew for twenty minutes on the Tempelhof field to-day. He then stopped on account of a heavy rain.

PROSPERITY BEFORE POLITICS.

Russia Overlooks Police Despotism While Grain Is Hurried to Seaboard.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 25.—All efforts were made to hold three successive meetings to select candidates for vacant seats in the Duma this week in this city and all three were closed by the police. Notwithstanding this, resentment is confined to the immediate partisans of the candidates. Public interest is centered in the harvest.

Prizes have been given to the local railroad staffs in southeast and southwest Russia for expediting the carriage of crops, with the result that whereas formerly it took six days to send a grain train from Orei to Kharkov, only three days were occupied this year.

The prizes also reduced the time of making up trains at sidings from four hours to half an hour.

IN THE CRATER OF KILAUEA.

Three Enterprising Photographers Descend to the Edge of the Lake of Fire.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
HONOLULU, Sept. 25.—A descent into the pit of the great crater of the volcano Kilauea was made for the first time to-day by L. V. Hale, J. Reynolds and Ernest Moses, photographers. They ventured almost to the edge of the boiling lake of lava and tried to take photographs.

The men made their way over partly molten lava and took many negatives, returning in safety.

The volcano now presents a magnificent spectacle. The lava is rising in great streams from the great lake of fire that nearly fills the crater.

JAMAICA COOL TO CANADA.

Won't Have a Reciprocity Treaty for Fear of American Reprisals.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept. 25.—The sentiment of this community is wholly against the proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada.

The people will have nothing to do with it, because they fear American reprisals.

SHOT FOR CHARGING GRAFT.

Murder Follows Municipal Crookedness in Venezuelan Capital.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
CARACAS, Sept. 25.—Discrepancies were discovered recently in the municipal revenue books of the last administration and some of the books appeared to have been mutilated.

An investigation was ordered by the Caracas Municipal Council, and in the course of the debate on the matter Councilman Chaurer charged Garcia, the former administrator of revenues, with effecting the mutilations.

This morning Garcia shot Chaurer dead in the street near the Yellow House (the official residence). The event has created great excitement.

TALKED OF MISS ELKINS.

Abruzzi Visits His Brother in Turin and Dines With the King and Queen.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
TURIN, Sept. 25.—It is reported that after an interview with the Duke of Acosta yesterday the Duke of the Abruzzi dined in the evening with the King and Queen at Racconigi.

In the course of the meeting the name of Miss Katherine Elkins was mentioned to the royal couple.

TO AVERT EXPLOSIONS.

Italy Suspends Dirigible Flights Pending Alterations in Machinery.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
ROME, Sept. 25.—The trials of the army dirigible balloon at Bracciano have been interrupted until the completion of alterations intended to avert explosions.

The balloon is likely to undertake a trip from Bracciano to Florence.

D'ANNUNZIO SET TO MUSIC.

Italian Lady Writing Score for "Francesca da Rimini."

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
ROME, Sept. 25.—Princess Massimo, leader of the black nobility, is setting to music D'Annunzio's "Francesca da Rimini." The poet has altered the verses and curtailed the play for the purpose.

Blumstein
WEST 125th ST.

LACES AND TRIMMINGS.

We are now showing an attractive assortment of our latest importations of laces, consisting of bandings, all-overs and appliques, in baby Irish, Pt. Venice effects, also an exquisite selection of jeweled, metallic and bugle trimmings, garnitures, ornaments, tassels, pendants, etc., suitable for street and evening attire at very attractive prices.

Specials in Silks and Dress Goods.

34-INCH BLACK MESSALINE AND PEAU DE CYGNE, very rich and lustrous; usually \$1.00 a yard. 69c
MOIRE BARRE in a complete line of newest shades, 24 inches wide; usually \$1.25 a yard, for 89c
YARD WIDE SATIN DUCHESSE, rich jet black, also 36-inch Black Taffeta, warranted for wear; usually \$1.25 a yard, for 95c
54-INCH ENGLISH WORSTED SUITINGS, in large varieties of styles and colorings; value \$1.50 to \$2.00. 95c
54-INCH FRENCH BROADCLOTH, sponged and shrunk, in all the fashionable shades. Very Finest Grade; actual value \$2.50 a yard, for \$1.75

West 125th Street, 7th and 8th Avenues

A Noteworthy Exhibition

THE wholesome traditions of intelligent design and superb technique still dominate some of the old world's workshops. They are exemplified, for instance, in the productions of a few noted European Cabinet-makers.

On one of the twelve galleries we have devoted to the display of furniture of a distinctive character, will be found a collection of selected examples of these. Brought here for the purposes of exact reproduction, there are included in this interesting exhibition the masterpieces of such artificers of world-wide reputation as Bianco, Henry, Gillow and Loch.

These are not antiques, but admirable essays in the style and spirit of such artistic forbears as the brothers Adam, Sheraton, Heppelwhite, and Chippendale. As such they offer valuable suggestions for the Library, Dining Room, Bedroom and Drawing Room.

GRAND RAPIDS FURNITURE COMPANY

(Incorporated)

34 and 36 West 32d Street

Between Broadway and Fifth Avenue

Best & Co.

WE are now exhibiting a noteworthy showing of Misses' and Girls' Dresses, Suits and Wraps, imported direct from noted Foreign Modistes, together with our own exclusive designs, for the Fall and Winter Season.

Infants and Children

Child's Cheviot Suit, colors: cadet, navy and raspberry; sizes 10 to 14 yrs. \$19.75

Child's Military Coat of Blue Cheviot, with hood, lined throughout with red flannel; sizes 3½ to 4 yrs. \$9.75 6 yrs. \$10.25

Children's Hand-Embroidered Dresses in French Nainsook, Lawn, Pique and Linen. \$1.50 to 85.00

Infants' Long Silk Cloaks, Faille, Corded and Plain Silk, Cashmere, Bedford Cord and Crepe. \$4.50 to 145.00

Infants' Long Cloaks, hand-embroidered with Baby Irish lace. Also Infants' and Children's Short Coats, in Faille, Corded and Plain Silks. \$11.50 to 75.00

Babies' Fine Bibs, hand-embroidered, trimmed with Real Val., Baby Irish and Cluny Laces.

Fine Pique Shoes, hand-embroidered, and some Baby Irish and Cluny.

Infants' and Children's Short Coats in Faille, Corded and Plain Silks. Also Cashmere, Bedford Cord, Crepe, Crepe de Chine and Broadcloth.

Girls

Neckwear. Bows, Ties, Jabots and Tabs of Silk, Lawn and Irish Crochet. 50c. to \$6.50

Eton Collars of Irish Crochet; novelty patterns. \$5.50 to 9.00

Linen Dutch Collars, hand-embroidered. 50c. to \$2.85

Knitted Sweater Coats

of Fine Lamb's Wool, full fashioned; colors: grey, tan, scarlet and white; 26 to 28-inch bust. \$4.75 30 to 32-inch bust. \$5.00 34 to 36-inch bust. 5.50 38-inch bust. 6.00

Boys

Boys' Russian Suits in Fancy Greys and Browns also Blue and Brown Serges in various qualities; ages 2 to 8 yrs; according to materials. \$6.00 to 10.50

Mixture Sailor Suits for School wear; ages 5 to 10 yrs. \$7.00 to 10.00

Boys' Norfolk and Double-Breasted Blouse Trousers Suits, many models; all the popular cloths; hand-tailored. \$9.00 to 16.50

Blouses of Fancy Madras, with or without collars; cuffs attached; 8 to 14 yrs. 48c

Neckwear. Four-in-Hands in French or open ends; Knob and Tecks, Bows, String Ties and Windsors in all the new colorings. 25c. to 50c

Hats in School or Dress Models of Felt, Cloth, Cheviot, Chimichilla, Velvet, Beaver and Velour in newest designs and colorings. \$1.00 to 8.50

Young Men

Youths' Long Trousers Suits, both Single and Double-Breasted, in Cheviots, Serges, Worsted and Cassimeres, All popular shades; ages 15 to 20 yrs. \$16.50 to 25.00

Youths' Single and Double-Breasted Overcoats in Oxfords, Greys, Browns and Greens. \$16.50 to 23.50

College Soft Shirts of Soisette, Madras, Oxford, Fancy Scotch and Plain Flannel in grey, navy and khaki. \$1.00 to 2.00 Also Plain White with fine narrow tucks, for Dress. \$1.50

Knitted Coat Sweaters, All Wool, in grey, navy, scarlet or white. \$2.85

Hats, models especially for young men, in new shades; Telescopes, Alpines and Derbies, English Golf and Bull Dog Caps, in snappy woolen effects. 50c. to \$2.75

Misses

Misses' School Dresses; sizes 14 to 18 yrs. \$22.50

Misses' Cravenette Raincoats, made of fine material, single-breasted, semi-fitted back; colors: blue, tan and black; 14 to 18 yrs. \$14.75

Tailor-Made Suits in New Materials and Colors.

Some Handsome New Models in Lingerie Dresses, White and Colored Crepes, beautifully hand-embroidered, some trimmed with Irish Cluny and Valenciennes Laces.

A Few Handsome Hand-Embroidered and Lace Trimmed Long and Short Kimonos materials: Albatross, French Flannel, Silk and Batiste. French Models.

Millinery

The Very Latest Ideas of the French Milliners are Shown in Dress Hats stunning shapes, new materials, trimmed with handsome plumes or flowers in exquisite colorings and infinite variety.

Smart Tailored Hats with simple garnitures, but much style.

For Younger Children

the daintiest materials, softest colorings and most bewitching shapes. Many models designed expressly to go with the Gowns and Coats will not be copied.

60-62 West 23d Street